

Message Text

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PAGE 01 QUITO 03342 142016Z

11

ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 FEA-01

ERDA-05 AID-05 CEA-01 CIEP-01 COME-00 EB-07 FPC-01

INT-05 OMB-01 SAM-01 OES-03 STR-04 TRSE-00 FRB-03

/093 W

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R 141957Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY QUITO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5548

INFO AMCONSUL GUAYAQUIL

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E.O., 11652: GDS

TAGS: EINV ENRG EC

SUBJECT: TEXACO-GULF

1. ALTHOUGH THE NEWSPAPERS HAVE KNOWN FOR SEVERAL DAYS ABOUT THE TEXACO-GULF SUSPENSION OF LIFTINGS, EL COMERCIO WITHELD THE STORY UNTIL MAY 14. THE PUBLICITY WILL PROBABLY SERVE TO FORCE THE ISSUE TO SOME RESOLUTION. IN FRONT PAGE STR EL CGMERCIO ANNOUNCES THAT TEXACO AND GULF HAVE NOT LIFTED CRUDE IN MAY AND THAT THE ONLY LIFTINGS (750,000 BARRELS) WERE MADE BY CEPE AND KNHN MINISTRY OF NATURAL RESOURCES. IT REPORTS THAT THE PIPELINE THEREFORE HAS CARRIED ONLY PARTIAL LOADS. IT CITESSOURCES CLOSE TO OFFICIALS AS EXPLAINING THAT THE PARALYSIS OF EXPORTS IS BECAUSE THE PRICE OF ECUADOREAN PETROLEUM IS NOT COMPETITIVE IN INTERNATIONAL MARKETS.

2. STORY NOTES THAT EXPORT SHIPMENTS APRIL 1-25 HAD TOTALED 4,479,000 BARRELS (180,000 BPD) BUT THAT THE MINISTRY HAS RELEASED NO FIGURES SINCE THAT DATE; THE FORMERLY WEEKLY
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STATISTICAL ANNOUNCEMENT WILL BE MADE MONTHLY IN THE

FUTURE.

3. WITHOUT EXPLICITLY CALLING ATTENTION TO THE
DISCREPANCY BETWEEN THE LAW ON PRODUCTION AND THE FACTS,
STORY ADDS THAT FROM APRIL 14, ACCORDING TO DECREE,
TEXACO AND GULF MUST MAINTAIN A DAILY PRODUCTION OF
210,000 BARRELS AND THAT TEXACO-GULF'S FAILURE TO MAINTAIN
NORMAL LEVELS OF PRODUCTION AND EXPORTS WAS GIVEN BY THE
GOVERNMENT AS THE REASON FOR ITS DECREE.
HEMENWAY

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Message Attributes

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